



news release

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CANADA SIGNS THREE AGREEMENTS WITH CHINA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced today from Beijing the signing of three agreements with the Chinese government.

Mr. Ouellet signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty which will enhance Canada's ability to deal with international crime, drug trafficking and money laundering in particular. The Treaty provides for co-operation between China and Canada in the areas of prevention, investigation, and prosecution of criminals. Canada has similar treaties with eight other countries.

As part of a new development policy framework for China, Mr. Ouellet and China's Minister of International Trade and Economic Co-operation, Mrs. Wu Yi, signed a letter of intent on environmental co-operation. The Canadian International Development Agency will develop three projects and assist China to achieve the objectives agreed to at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, as outlined in the Agenda 21 global action plan.

The third agreement establishes a \$100-million line of credit from the Export Development Corporation. This matching concessional financing will enhance the competitiveness of Canadian exporters to China, especially in the case of small and medium-sized businesses.

Distribution criteria for this line of credit were developed in consultation with the private sector in order to ensure equal distribution of funds. No company or group of companies can receive more than \$20 million. This agreement was initiated by the Minister for International Trade, Roy MacLaren, during his trade mission to China last March.

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